

How to use Michigan Trout Trails and Frequently Asked Questions

If you don't find the answer to your question here, contact DNR Fisheries at (517) 284-6162 or send an email to StoneS5@michigan.gov

To get started:

Select one of the Great Lakes watershed basins at the top left, or Statewide.



Currently we have 129 sites in two of the Great Basin watersheds as well as the option to select the statewide map. Many more Trout Trails sites will be added each year.

Icons will appear on the map and the Legend at the top right provides a key to these icons. An address and phone number will emerge when the icon is selected for a Customer Service Center, Fish Hatchery or Visitor Center – all great places to visit! As you roll over these icons the name associated with each location will appear.



In the top left of the larger map area you may use the plus sign (+) to zoom into any area of the map or the minus sign (-) to zoom out. The “house” returns you to the home page, and the “bull’s eye” will take you to your current location if you allow your location to be known.

You may also double click on any area of the map to zoom you in closer and you can get quite close!

The Trout Trails sites on the large map within the area you are viewing will directly correspond to the smaller thumb nail photos and site names to the left of the large map. You may select a Trout Trail Site directly on the large map or simply select the thumbnail to the left.



Using Heart Lake as an example, a photo of the site is provided and the trout specie(s) found at this location is included as well.

If “Zoom” is selected at the lower right corner, then the location on the larger map will be enlarged so that you may see close up view for that exact location.

Once “Details” is selected on the lower left corner of the thumb nail, another box will pop up that provides specific information for that site.



Species

Brook Trout; Brown Trout; Steelhead

Species Details

Brook trout are common in this reach with fish less than 8 inches typical, but some fish up to 12 inches might be collected. Brown trout are also common, but will feed mostly at night, with an occasional brown trout larger than 20 inches present. Rainbow trout (steelhead) also migrate to this reach of river and spawn in the gravel reaches. These are migrating fish from Mullett Lake. Steelhead typically range from 15-25 inches here during the spawning run. Juvenile rainbows less than 7 inches in length are caught in the swifter water around this campground as well, making it a good location to cast spinners for small aggressive rainbows (especially for kids!).

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[Michigan Fishing License](#)

[Michigan Fishing Guide](#)

[Guide Services](#)

[Regional Visitor Information](#)

Geographic Coordinates

Lat: 45.171030 /Lon: -84.436948

Noteworthy

This is a busy location, but most people using it are within the boundaries of the campground. Spend some time walking upstream or downstream away from the campground or river crossing and you will find some attractive water. Steelhead are attracted to the large pool behind the road-crossing in the spring. The bottom is sand and gravel. Current is increasing here, and the stream corridor is very aesthetic with mature forest, and some meadows.

Regulations

This area is a designated Type 2 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Stream Trout and Salmon regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide. Wild trout populations.

Directions

There is another Pigeon River campground just off the beaten path that bisects a good reach of the river. It can be accessed just a few hundred feet west of Twin Lakes Road. The campground offers plenty of river side camping sites, and plenty of supplemental parking locations. There are two culverts under Ford Lake Road that always attract anglers and swimmers.

[Google Driving Directions](#)

Details on each site include:

- Location name
- Species found
- Species details including size and other pertinent information
- Latitude and Longitude to use in your personal GPS device
- Noteworthy information about the site, the water and useful facts
- Regulations are provided so the angler knows exactly what regulatory designation for each stream or lake
- Written directions to the site as well as a link for Google driving directions to use with your Smartphone
- Save this information to a PDF and print
- A link for to our e-License site to purchase a Michigan Fishing License

- A link to the current Michigan Fishing Guide for fishing information and regulations
- A link for fishing guide services if they are available in the area
- A link for visitors to find lodging, restaurants, local activities and festivals, and more!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

What if there are no fishing guide services listed in the area I wish to visit?

Contact the nearest DNR Customer Service Center for assistance in finding a local guide.



Are there tours available at Michigan's State Fish Hatcheries?

All of our hatcheries are open to the public. Contact the hatchery directly via the phone number provided when selecting the hatchery icon to find out the best time to visit.

What will we find at a DNR Visitor Center?

All of the DNR Visitor Centers have trained interpreters and naturalists that provide excellent education programming and tours. Each Visitor Center is unique to the local area so call them to find out what they are offering during your visit!

When will the other areas in the state have Trout Trails?

We will add more Trout Trails sites each year until we have the entire state covered!